

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 05400 030919Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PER-05

L-03 A-01 M-03 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01

/071 W

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R 030852Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5213

INFO CINCPAC

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 5400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AFSP, MARR, MASS, LA

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE

REF: STATE 151656

1. ON AUGUST 3, I PRESENTED PRIME MINISTER WITH LETTER, AS AUTHORIZED REFTEL, CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF DAO. SOUVANNA WAS ALREADY IN AN IRRITABLE MOOD AS A RESULT OF NGON SANANIKONE'S FOOT-DRAGGING WHICH HAS SLOWED DOWN THE PACE OF THE LAO NEGOTIATIONS. WORKING FROM OUR FRENCH TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER, SOUVANNA IMMEDIATELY NOTED ABSENCE OF FIGURE FOR NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL TO BE ASSIGNED TO DAO. IN A SOMEWHAT TESTY MANNER, HE POINTED OUT THAT FAILURE TO INCLUDE CEILING FIGURE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL IN DAO MADE LETTER SUBSTANTIVELY DIFFERENT FROM CONCEPT WHICH I HAD PROPOSED TO HIM EARLIER IN THE WEEK, AND WITH WHICH HE HAD AGREED. I SUGGESTED THAT I TAKE BACK MY LETTER AND INCLUDE IN A REVISED VERSION A PHRASE LIMITING THE DAO TO NO MORE THAN 30 MILITARY PERSONNEL. UNFORTUNATELY, PRIMIN WOULD NOT RETURN LETTER, STATING THAT HE WOULD REPLY TO IT "SOMETIME NEXT WEEK."

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2. HAVING BEEN PUT ON THE DEFENSIVE, I THEN EXPLAINED

AT LENGTH THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING THE DAO BEFORE THE PROTOCOL IS SIGNED, THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING ONE US MILITARY OFFICER COORDINATE ALL US MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN LAOS AND ABOVE ALL THE COMMAND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DAO AND THE LOGISTICS SUPPORT ELEMENT IN UDORN.

3. SOUVANNA SAID HE IS GOING TO LUANG PRABANG TOMORROW TO BRIEF THE KING AND WILL SEND A FORMAL REPLY TO MY LATTER NEXT WEEK. HE ADDED THAT IF ALL GOES WELL, IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL WILL BE SIGNED NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE SOUVANNA WILL NEXT WEEK SEND US AN AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO OUR LETTER. HOWEVER, HE WAS CLEARLY ANNOYED BY WHAT APPEARED TO HIM A USG EFFORT TO "TRY TO PUT SOMETHING OVER ON HIM," AND AS A RESULT I EXPECT HIM TO SCRUTINIZE CAREFULLY ENTIRE TEXT OF LETTER.  
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** 73 STATE 151656  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AFSP, MARR, MASS, LA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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